



PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE EMPLOYEES PLEAD GUILTY TO DRUG CHARGES

TUCSON, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that Ricardo Romero, Jr. (DOB 9-5-78) and Cesar Ricardo Amaya (DOB 3-16-81), both United States Forest Service Employees have plead guilty to Count 2 of the indictment, possession with intent to distribute marijuana. Cesar Ricardo Amaya plead guilty today before Magistrate Judge Glenda Edmonds. Ricardo Romero, Jr. plead guilty on October 10, 2003. Ricardo Romero, Jr., a resident of Rio Rico, Arizona, has been with the United States Forest Service since 1998 and Cesar Ricardo Amaya, a resident of Nogales, Arizona has been with the United States Forest Service since 2002. Both men work as fire fighters for the Nogales Fire Station.

A conviction for the marijuana violation carries a maximum sentence of up to twenty (20) years in prison and a fine of up to \$1,000,000.00.

The investigation that led to the arrest was conducted by a joint investigation between the Southern Arizona Corruption Task Force, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U. S. Forest

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Service, and the Department of Agriculture - Office of the Inspector General. The Southern Arizona Corruption Task Force is comprised of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement - Internal Affairs, and the Tucson Police Department.

The prosecution is being handled by James T. Lacey, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

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